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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PORTUGAL

A. ELECTION RESULTS HOLD SOMETHING FOR NEARLY EVERYONE

EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS THAT THE LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS HAVE PROVIDED NEARLY ALL CONTENDERS WITH SOME CAUSE FOR SATISFACTION. IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW, THE WINNERS INCLUDE:

--THE SOCIALISTS, WHO WEATHERED WHAT MANY SAW AS A REFERENDUM ON THEIR MANAGEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND EMERGE WITH PRIME MINISTER SOARES' HAND STRENGTHENED;

--THE COMMUNISTS, WHO REGISTERED THEIR HIGHEST VOTE YET, REINFORCING THEIR CALL FOR A POPULAR FRONT GOVERNMENT; AND

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--THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, WHOSE ARGUMENT FOR AN INCREASED

POLICY-MAKING ROLE MAY BE BOLSTERED BY THEIR GAINS.

THE EMBASSY SEES THE CONSERVATIVES AND THE FAR LEFT AS THE ONLY LOSERS:

--THE CENTER DEMOCRATS EXPECTED MORE AND MUST BE DISAPPOINTED.

--WITHOUT OTELO, THE ULTRA-LEFTIST GDUP FARED DISASTROUSLY. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 8552, 12/13.)

B. STILL WARY OF GOLD SWAP

TOP PORTUGUESE LEADERS ARE WONDERING WHETHER THE US COULD ALTER ITS POSITION ON THE USE OF GOLD IN THE PROPOSED LOAN TO PORTUGAL. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI:

--PRESIDENT EANES STRESSED THAT THE SALE OF GOLD WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON UNSOPHISTICATED, CONSERVATIVE AREAS ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT RELIES FOR SUPPORT.

--AS A FALL-BACK POSITION, FINANCE MINISTER MEDINA CARREIRA PROPOSED THAT GOLD BE USED BY THE US TO SECURE A PRIVATE-SECTOR LOAN; THIS WOULD ENABLE PORTUGAL TO EARMARK ITS GOLD RESERVES AS A GUARANTEE FOR THE LOAN AND AVOID ANY SALES.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: IF OUR GOLD IS USED TO SECURE A PRIVATE-SECTOR LOAN, THE TOTAL AVAILABILITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE, FROM ALL SOURCES, WILL BE LIMITED TO \$300 MILLION. WE DOUBT THIS AMOUNT WILL LAST THE GOVERNMENT MORE THAN SIX MONTHS. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 8564 AND 8568 (LIMDIS), 12/13.)

2. FRANCE CONCERNED BY CONCORDE DEVELOPMENTS

IN A DEMARCHE TO AMBASSADOR RUSH DECEMBER 10, FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD SAID THAT FRANCE, HAVING WITHHELD ACTION DURING THE US CAMPAIGN, IS NOW COMPELLED TO CONVEY
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ITS SERIOUS CONCERN OVER CONCORDE DEVELOPMENTS. DE GUIRINGAUD PREDICTED THAT REFUSAL OF LANDING RIGHTS IN NEW YORK COULD DESTROY THE WHOLE BRITISH-FRENCH PROGRAM AND WOULD INEVITABLY SPARK ANTI-US DEMONSTRATIONS IN FRANCE. IF THE LATTER OCCURRED, THE GOF WOULD BE UNABLE TO PLEAD THE US CASE BEFORE FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 36747, 12/13.)

3. IRAN: GULF SECURITY PACT AS PROTECTION AGAINST "BIG POWERS"

EMBASSY TEHRAN BELIEVES THAT A DECEMBER 12 KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL EDITORIAL CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF IRAN'S POLICY TOWARD ITS GULF REGION NEIGHBORS AND MUST HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY INSPIRED. THE EDITORIAL:

--EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR PATIENCE AND DETERMINATION IN WORKING TOWARD REGIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS;

--INDICATED THAT THE OPTIONS FOR THE FORM OF SUCH ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE LEFT OPEN FOR THE PRESENT; AND

--LINKED A REQUIREMENT FOR SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE NEED FOR CLOSER ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

THE EDITORIAL ALSO STATED THAT AN ALLIANCE WOULD HELP PROTECT THE AREA AGAINST GREAT POWER (INCLUDING US) MILITARY INTERFERENCE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: BY LUMPING THE US WITH THOSE WHO DO NOT WELCOME CLOSER TIES AMONG THE GULF STATES, IRAN IS PROBABLY TRYING TO FIND A STALKING HORSE TO COUNTER THE ARGUMENT THAT ANY SECURITY PACT WOULD BE ANTI-SOVIET. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEHRAN 12296, 12/13.)

4. COUNCIL OF CHURCHES TO EXPLOIT ROK LENIENCY

KANG MUN-KYU, A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE KOREAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, HAS TOLD EMBASSY SEOUL THAT THE COUNCIL WILL GO ALL OUT IN THE COMING WEEKS TO WHIP UP POPULAR INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT CURRENT CONFIDENTIAL

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GOVERNMENT LENIENCY IS THE RESULT OF INTERNATIONAL SETBACKS AND CANNOT LAST LONG, THE COUNCIL IS DETERMINED TO USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOUNT MAJOR INITIATIVES.

KANG ADDED THAT HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY STUDENT GROUPS WHICH INTEND TO TURN CAMPUS PRAYER MEETINGS INTO DEMONSTRATIONS ATTACKING GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION. ALTHOUGH KANG WAS ENCOURAGED BY THIS RENEWED INTEREST IN ACTIVISM, THE COUNCIL WILL NOT ENDORSE DEMONSTRATIONS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE COUNCIL'S DECISION, COUPLED WITH STUDENT UNREST, MAY RESULT IN A MORE SEVERE GOVERNMENT REACTION. (CONFIDENTIAL) SEOUL 9700, 12/11.)

5. JAPAN: FOREIGN MINISTRY TILTS TOWARD ASEAN

A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED EMBASSY TOKYO THAT THE MINISTRY HAS DECIDED TO ABANDON "BALANCED DIPLOMACY" IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND TO TRY TO CREATE A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH ASEAN. THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN INCLUDE:

--USE OF JAPANESE ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC TOOLS TO BOLSTER THE SECURITY OF ASEAN STATES;

--INAUGURATION OF AN ACTIVE JAPANESE-ASEAN FORUM;

--RECASTING JAPAN'S ECONOMIC COOPERATION STRATEGY TO EMPHASIZE EXPORT-IMPORT MAINTENANCE INSTEAD OF GRANTS AND CREDITS; AND

--KEEPING THE US ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE AREA.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THOUGH THERE ARE SIGNS OF GROWING PUBLIC RECEPTIVITY TO A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA, WHETHER THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CAN SELL EVEN A SHADOW OF ITS PLAN TO POLITICIANS AND OTHER MINISTRIES REMAINS TO BE SEEN. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 18274, 12/13.)

6. GUATEMALA: LAUGERUD VYING WITH HARDLINERS OVER BELIZE TALKS

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IN A CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR BOSTER AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS DECEMBER 10, PRESIDENT LAUGERUD SAID THAT:

--DESPITE US ASSISTANCE AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE, GUATEMALANS MISTRUST THE US, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF US SUPPORT ON THE BELIZE QUESTION.

--THE CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS OF THE GUATEMALAN DELEGATION TO THE BELIZE TALKS WITH THE UK HAVE THREATENED TO INTRODUCE A MOTION IN CONGRESS TO BREAK OFF THE TALKS IN REPRISAL FOR PERCEIVED BRITISH DUPLICITY IN THE UN.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: THIS IS THE CLEAREST EXPRESSION OF THE DEPTH OF GUATEMALAN FEELING ON THIS ISSUE AND OF LAUGERUD'S PREOCCUPATION WITH IT AS A POLITICAL PROBLEM. WE ARE CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL PREVAIL OVER THE HARDLINERS AND PREVENT THE CONGRESS FROM BREAKING OFF THE NEGOTIATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) GUATEMALA 8298 (LIMDIS) 12/13.) KISSINGER

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